

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXV.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 15TH MAY, 1907.

No. 20

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MARRIAGE.

On May 9th, at Shanghai, GEORGE ELFORD GRIFFIN to CECILIA (CISSE) FARMER HARDIE, Municipal Librarian, and second daughter of the late William Hardie, of Shanghai.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of 18th April arrived, per the s.s. *Oceana*, on Wednesday, the 15th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

During the three days' racing at Shanghai \$105,145 passed through the Pari-Mutuel for place-betting, \$59,245 through the Cash Sweeps, and \$55.77 through the Pari-Mutuel for first ponies, making a grand total of \$250,160.

An Imperial Edict declares that, according to a Censor, named Chao-Chiling, Prince Ching has received as a birthday present Tls. 100,000, from Tuan Chih-kuei, newly appointed Governor of Heilungkiang. The Throne has ordered Prince Chun, brother of the Emperor, and Grand Secretary Suncha-nai to investigate the matter.

Within an hour on Thursday morning three dead bodies were dumped in Third Street, West Point. In one instance small-pox was found to be the cause of death.

We are officially informed that the Hon. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz has been appointed First Police magistrate, in succession to Mr. T. Sercombe Smith. Mr. C. Clementi succeeds the latter gentleman in the position of Assistant Colonial Secretary, and Mr. F. C. Figg has been appointed Director of the Observatory on the retirement of Dr. W. Dobereck.

Indian constable 733 was charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on May 14th with assaulting a Chinese woman at Causeway Bay. From the evidence it appeared that complainant and defendant were making for the same seat on a tram car. The constable politely drew back and told the woman to get on the car first. Because she refused he slapped her. His Worship inflicted a fine of \$7.

According to a statement made at the Paris Academy of Medicine, it is now possible to regard dysentery as easy and rapidly curable owing to the discovery by Doctors Vaillard and Dopter of a serum which is obtainable by treating horses with the bacillus of dysentery. It is stated that out of 200 patients who have been treated with this serum only 10 have died. If the French scientific men have found an equally efficacious serum against what is known as the Philippine form of the *plexner* bacillus, which the Viennese bacteriologists consider to be distinct from other *plexner* forms, and hitherto uncombatable, dysentery will no longer take rank as the scourge of armies in the field.

At Peking was issued on May 6th a Decree expressing regret at receipt of the news of the death of the Imperial Clansman Pu Hsing, at one time President of the Board of Punishments (old régime). "Duke Tsai Tao is commanded to carry a 'Tolo' prayer coverlet, the gift from the Emperor, to deceased to be used as a shroud, and to pour a libation before the remains on behalf of His Majesty. The sum of Tls. 5,000 from the Privy Purse is ordered to be given to the family of deceased for funeral expenses; all his official delinquencies are commanded to be erased from the records and his eldest son Yü Sung is granted the rank of a second class secretary of one of the Ministries of Peking, as a mark of the Imperial recognition of the loyal services of the deceased."

The handsome address from the community, which is being forwarded to Sir Matthew Nathan, was on view at the Legislative Council Chamber on Thursday afternoon. It is bound in blackwood covers artistically carved in pure Chinese designs. On the front of the book is affixed the crest of the Colony in gold, while above and below it are the two Chinese characters representing "good luck." At the bottom of the cover is a plate bearing the inscription—"Presented to H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G. on his departure from Hongkong, 26th April, 1907." The opposite cover, which is also beautifully carved, displays a golden bat with outstretched wings at each of the four corners. This is expressive of good wishes being wafted to Sir Matthew on favourable winds from those who admired him in Hongkong.

The alleged bribe of Tls. 100,000 made by the now dismissed Governor-designate of Heilungkiang province, H.E. Tuan Chih-kuei, to Prince Ching is stated by the *Sinwenpao* to have been borrowed by Tuan Chih-kuen from Sun Ch'ung-ying, a compradore of the foreign firm of Yeh Hsin in Tientsin. As birthday presents of such large amount and even greater are by no means infrequent in Peking, it was quite natural for Prince Ching to have received the gift from Tuan Chih-kuei, who is a protégé of his, without thinking anything out of the way of the matter, or that it was ever intended as a bribe for the former's patron. The Censors themselves are notorious as being only too eager for gift, and failing such presents denunciatory memorials are forthcoming—and it is suspected that it was the neglect of the unloquacious Governor-designate of Heilungkiang in omitting to reply satisfactorily to the Censor, Chao Ch'ilin that caused his present downfall—and, perhaps, will that of his patron also.

A report of what appeared to be attempted arson, which was made to Inspector Ritchie at the Central Police Station on May 12th, has revealed a Chinese method of housebreaking which, although long in vogue, has seldom, if ever, been made public. On the morning in question the inmates of a shop at No. 30 Upper Station Street reported that someone had tried to set fire to the staircase leading to the first and second floors above the shop. At the bottom of the stairs a quantity of cloth saturated with kerosene, and a small tin full of the oil was found. At the same time it was discovered that the partition wall dividing the shop from the entrance to the upper floors was on fire. The blaze was immediately quelled and the police communicated with. After they had visited the place, and made careful inquiries, they came to the conclusion that it was not a case of attempted arson, but that Chinese robbers had been endeavouring, by means of an old practice, to gain entrance to the shop on the ground floor, and had probably been disturbed while so employed, and decamped. To avoid making a noise the Chinese robber, instead of forcing open a door, burns a hole in the wall large enough for him to put his hand through and so be enabled to withdraw the bolt. This, in the opinion of the police, is what happened in the present instance.

"AN UNTRUE ROBBERY IN PO WAH STREET."

[We think our readers will enjoy the following contribution more in its unedited form. Here it appears, just as it reached us:]

The robbery perpetrated in the So family residence in Po Wah Street has now been followed up to the fact that it was a false alarm raised by the inmates. It would seem that the shock caused by the gunpowder magazine explosion on the 2nd instant was so keenly felt in this house that all doors and windows were thrown open in a terrific force. One of the servants thinking that a gang of burglars was breaking into the house shouted in the loudest voice possible for their arrest. The police on ascending the roof had accidentally fired a shot into the street which killed one joss-stick hawker, and injured another passbyer. These policemen are now suspended to answer a charge of manslaughter.

CHINESE RAILWAY SERVANTS.

(Daily Press, 13th May.)

The proverbial politeness of the Chinese does not always stand the test of new and alien circumstances. The native ceremoniousness at a tea party, say, finds no corresponding civility on an electric tram. The way in which the "end seat hog" monopolizes Hongkong trams is becoming serious enough to warrant the intervention of the management. The conductors, who, with very rare exceptions, are very well behaved towards the general public, might be instructed to discourage the habit that so many men have of sticking like a limpet to the end seat next the entrance, and blocking or making inconvenient access to the remaining seats. Judging by a formidable communication received yesterday from Swatow, the railway has worse effects upon manners than the tram has. Fifteen closely typed foolscap pages of complaints about the management of the Chao-chow and Swatow Railway Company Limited would overburden our readers, so we skim them. It is the ticket-collectors, guards, and other servants of the railway by whom the public is "insulted, assaulted, and generally ill-used" there. One ticket-collector, suspecting that the luggage of "a spectacled Chinese gentleman" contained silver dollars, "liable to a freight charge on the value" ordered it to be opened; and slapped the servant who refused. When the gentleman remonstrated, he too received a blow that smashed his spectacles. Being a Straits-born British subject, he naturally resented this, and lodged an official complaint. The ticket-collectors on that line have a playful habit of awaking sleeping or inattentive passengers by kicking them on the shins—which is worse than the Hongkong tram conductor's method of prodding with a stiff forefinger. It is not the Japanese employes, our correspondent states, but Chinese, who so grossly misbehave. The present arrangements on the line, of stations, waiting rooms, ticket windows, entrances, and so on, throw all classes together, as our correspondent puts it, "into a complete state of hotch potch," and the subordinate officials apparently have decided to simplify things by treating all alike like coolies. The effect of a uniform on a Chinese wearer seems to transform a peaceful workman into a truculent mandarin. However, the Railway authorities seem to deplore this state of things as much as anybody, and in reply to complaints urge that the railway has been operated only four months, and that it will take time to train servants. They have to begin in all cases with raw hands, and when they find one is not adaptable, they discharge him and try again. "Our patrons, too, as a rule, are unused to railways, and therefore make our work doubly hard." The man complained of had been dismissed, and ample apologies tendered, but still the touchy, Straits-born Chinese are not satisfied, and they proceed to attack the mild and apologetic management. "The management of a railway should be perfect from the start. The manager or superintendent should not be an inexperienced man. No European railway company would take, as its manager or superintendent, any man simply because he happened to have invested his capital in the line. It may be Chinese to become a Mandarin by paying money, but it is wrong to become a railway manager that way, because, while in the former case only the subjects of China are affected by the government of the mandarin, in the latter case the subjects of every nation in the world are affected." Evidently

China has no more scornful critic than the Straits born Chinaman. He envies an English doctor, the hero of an incident incorporated in the *dossier*, who seized a cheeky ticket-collector and held him up, as if to throw him off the train, while the rascal apologised and begged for mercy. That is how he would treat all Chinese who "do acts disgusting in the extreme to delicately brought up persons." For this Straits born gentleman, whose chief complaint is that the new railway allows such a democratic mixture of passengers, is distressed by the "selfishness and conservatism as are characteristic of the sons of the Celestial Empire, which is quite a standing block in the way of reform," and strongly recommends European management. The Singapore Government must have quite an easy time of it, with such sweetly reasonable subjects.

THE LIBERAL LEAGUE.

(Daily Press, 14th May.)

LORD ROSEBERY is an accomplished man, a clever man, and an agreeable man; still he lacks intensity of purpose, and this lack will ever prevent him taking the first rank in the national affairs. Still he has many of the qualities usually accompanying mastership, and amongst them is the faculty of being generally capable of reading the current of public opinion. Although, then, as a foe not so dangerous as many men of far inferior ability, his recent declaration with regard to the Government presided over by SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN will be damaging in the inverse ratio of his ability for leading his party; for it is the first overt pronouncement on the part of a shrewd observer that the days of that ill-assorted and inept association of incongruities are numbered. Characteristically Lord ROSEBERY commenced his speech by praising the Government. He could hardly do otherwise at a meeting of the Liberal League, but even his praise was damaging. Possibly no administration ever held office of which it might not be said that some of its members were good; nobody has had for instance a word to say in disfavour of Sir EDWARD GREY. That is nothing new, for his abilities were recognised even when he acted as Parliamentary Secretary under Mr. GLADSTONE. Both sides of the House too have recognised Mr. HALDANE's high purpose, and although differing in details no one but feels that more nearly than anyone else he has been the first to bring forward a really practicable scheme without fear or favour. So again no one has been tempted through party spirit to throw a stone at Mr. MORLEY in his conduct of the India Department. But; and the *But* is a very big one indeed however much confidence the country may have in the individual members of the Cabinet, no one, and we speak advisably, call he himself Liberal, Conservative, or Unionist, has the slightest confidence in the Administration as a whole. As Lord ROSEBERY put it to his meeting, at no distant time it must find itself squeezed out between Socialism and Conservatism. Socialism can make promises to the predatory elements in politics on the one hand, while on the other Conservatism must always commend itself to those who desire to keep things as they are; and as the leaders, or nominal leaders in the Cabinet are evidently permitting themselves to drift into the inquiet seas of disorder and plunder, the end cannot be far off when the more responsible members will refuse to permit themselves to be dragged further.

It is evident too that in other affairs the less responsible members are venturing into dangerously unsettled regions. It was by no skill on the part of the responsible members of the Cabinet, but owing to the wiser foresight of the Boer Leaders in the Transvaal, that another contretemps, such as followed Mr. GLADSTONE's surrender after Majuba Hill, was narrowly averted; and it is no credit to the Ministry that they have had to go to learn the business of government from the Colonial Premiers. Property; Lord ROSEBERY points out with the approbation even of the Liberal League, —and it is this approbation that lends force to his words—is much more widely diffused than is generally supposed. You talk of taxing this, and you talk of taxing that, and you fancy you are only taxing dukes, whereas, as a matter of fact, vast communities—cooperative societies, in fact, of workers are deeply interested in these very commodities, which you ignorantly think are solely confined to the much-moneyed class. In these practical matters of finance our colonial administrators are far ahead of our dilettante free-traders of the Cobden Club stamp, who only know the practical truths of finance, as our astronomers know the canals of Mars, yet, who would unhesitatingly settle the questions of Mar-tial irrigation without any practical acquaintance with the conditions of planetary life, other than afforded by gazing through the great telescope at the Lick Observatory. But it is not alone in Lord ROSEBERY's speech, remarkable as that is under present conditions, that signs are visible of a waking up from the fevered dreams of the last few years. The present House of Commons, it is curious to note, was not returned with the object of carrying out any such programme as His Majesty's present Ministers have been seeking to thrust on the country. It was distinctly returned with the view of counteracting Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's proposed fiscal reforms; yet it is curious to notice how the Government itself has found it necessary to begin the reform itself, even in the teeth of this deliberate verdict, and how already the country at large is falling in with these views. It is difficult to imagine how any body of reasonable men could have persuaded themselves that they were fighting the battle of Free Trade by lending their every support to the most unblushing practices of a Protection aimed avowedly at undermining the industrial resources of the country; yet it was on such misrepresentations that the election was carried. In the face of this, and in line with Lord ROSEBERY's warnings the action of the London Chamber of Commerce cannot be ignored. Mr. Faithful Begg, in carrying by a large majority of those present and represented, his amendment in favour of preferential trade with the Colonies, is evidently being upborne by the growing force of public opinion; and another indication that the country at large is also waking up to the fact that something better than politics are wanted is afforded by the recent rebellion against the visionary schemes of the late London County Council. The doctrinaires, in fact, overdid their part at the recent elections, and have committed the greatest of political crimes, that of being found out. If we could at home only succeed in getting ten years of government free from the narrow fetters of party, the country might begin once more to be great, and we might discover how immensely more worthy of our ambition is the safety of the Empire than the shibboleth of party. If Lord ROSEBERY have aided in doing this he will have deserved well of his generation.

MANNERS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 15th May.)

In China, there is no doubt generally an excess of ceremonious politeness and outward demonstration of respect. This has often been made a subject of good natured satire and ridicule; it is not to be denied that Chinese politeness at times has its comic aspect; but it is a mistake to ignore that it has also its good side. We may be amused at what appears to us the overstrained ceremoniousness in the constant use of the title of "great old father"—often to a person much younger than the one to whom it is addressed—and the constantly recurring epithets of "honourable" as applied to all belonging to the person addressed and "contemptible" to all appertaining to the speaker himself. Such extreme formality may be smiled at as a little out of date; but we must not forget that it does not go so far beyond that which was once observed in all European countries as is often supposed. In fairness we must remember that the survival of this rather heavy social procedure is only a part of Chinese conservatism. We need not be surprised that social as well as political "old custom" is carefully preserved by a people so tenacious of everything that is ancient. While Europeans are more and more inclined to throw aside antiquated forms of ceremony, the Chinese adhere to them simply because they are antiquated. Neither hit the exact mark; and it cannot be denied there is a certain amount of error on both sides.

If, however, we look at the practical results of the two systems, it must be admitted there is something to be said in favour of the Chinese way of treating this matter; and that if they err, their error is in the right direction. Chinese ceremony is undoubtedly overdone. It takes one back to mediæval times, and one is apt to be reminded of the lessons given by the dancing master to Monsieur Jourdain as to the way in which he was to approach a duchess; to make a bow, then three steps forward; then another bow; then three more steps. But China has not yet been blessed with a MOLIÈRE to laugh such nonsense out of existence. The mode of approaching the duchess is very much the manner in which a Chinese Taotai approaches a Yamén in company of a Consul, the process of deciding who is to go first—as an old British Consul once described it—generally taking something like half an hour; the end being that both enter the sacred precincts together. At the same time, it cannot be denied that out of a somewhat courteous system of ceremony, the ordinary fairly educated Chinaman has learnt how to behave himself; and this after all is the chief use of an outward show of deference. If you meet an educated Chinaman abroad, in America or any of our Colonies, you always find that he behaves in a reasonable, sensible, and courteous manner. He does not call you "old father,"—a compliment which might not be altogether appreciated; but he treats you with deference and to a certain degree with respect. He is easy and self-possessed and generally has the manners of a well-bred man. This, after all, he has learnt in his early days in a very ceremonious school in his native country; and if such be the result which is produced in practical life, one can hardly conclude that the Chinese system, though it may have its comical side, has not also some advantages. A recent writer in the *Spectator* says that in the present day "as we travel about in trains and streets and meet our fellow creatures at close quarters without knowing

anything about them, we neither give nor expect to receive any formal deference at all." This is probably somewhat overstated; but it is not encouraging that the writer considers such a state of things as quite natural and satisfactory. It is not what you find anywhere on the Continent, where deference to a stranger is looked upon as a matter of course. The assertion seems to be an unintentional admission that there is some foundation for the complaints of want of something of the old ceremony, in the present day, the absence of which is somewhat hastily assumed to be of so little consequence. Take away all show of deference even to people we meet in the streets and of whom we know nothing, and life is apt to become a somewhat more rough affair than even the most modern and optimistic writers could quite approve of. It has been said that the best manners are no manners, but it does not follow that no manners are the best.

GOVERNMENT AND SANITARY BOARD.

(Daily Press, 16th May.)

AFTER reading the whole page of yesterday's issue devoted to the meeting of the Sanitary Board, the average reader should still be somewhat confused as to the real issues. The Hon. Mr. HEWITT earmarked the whole discussion of the "dumping" question as indefinite, and it really was so. There was a nebulousness about the reforms talked of that was not becoming to the very concrete nature of the evil sought to be remedied. A few days ago we offered a suggestion as to one of the most likely causes of the Chinese practice of "dumping" corpses on the street—poverty, and the conventional extravagance of funerals. This was not submitted as the only cause, but as one not so far mentioned, and yet one at least as probable as those suggested. The REGISTRAR GENERAL referred to it briefly by remarking that the statistics now before the members of the Board gave no support to the theory that poverty is the cause of "dumping", unless, he qualified, "you are prepared to argue that poverty has increased greatly in Hongkong of recent years." This argument could hardly affect the effect of the figures, but whether or not, it does not seem an untenable position to take up. If the cost of necessities has been increasing, as we have been told is the fact, then the poor Chinese must be poorer, for though some employers complain that the cost of labour has also gone up, it has not risen proportionately. There are still gangs of labourers doing a day's work for twenty and thirty cents—much less than a penny an hour; and rents, even of cubicles, are high when considered in the light of how much can be spared from daily pittances like that. However, we are not concerned to prove that one theory is better than another, but to look fairly at admitted facts. It is admitted that too many Chinese corpses are left lying about the streets, and the Government wants to deal with that evil. So far the only tangible suggestion has been to cremate all such bodies; and the Government, "as at present advised," does not propose to adopt cremation. It is satisfied that the Sanitary Board's plague measures have had nothing to do with encouraging the practice of "dumping." It does not seem, "as at present advised," to have any idea of its own what to do, and appeals to the Board for fresh suggestions. The returns submitted by the REGISTRAR-

GENERAL prove nothing. The PRESIDENT remarked, "if figures prove anything, that proves that the byelaws have been effective." In that case, then, figures do not prove anything, for as in India, so in Hongkong, plague augments and decreases indifferent to what the Sanitary Authorities may do. Statistics are like some Chinese witnesses: they can be got to say anything. The experiments of the Sanitary authorities have caused a great deal of useless and unnecessary trouble and inconvenience, and apart from the allegations as to the inconsiderate ways and general misbehaviour of its understrappers, it needs no wizardry to see that the poor Chinese must regard their intrusions unfavourably. Foreigners sometimes get an inkling of what it must mean. In one case a gang of autocratic disinfectors took charge of a room occupied by a contact, harshly disregarded the reasonable requirements of the said contact, and damaged property, and never went near the room where the original patient must have left any infection he was likely to leave. That was last year, and the same disease is more rampant than ever. But even if the Sanitary Board were to be abolished, and all its experts deported, there would still be "dumping." The Government is so advised. It wants to stop it; it won't try cremation; then what is it going to do? Meanwhile the Sanitary Board, by adopting the Registrar's three resolutions, has performed the amusing feat of passing a vote of censure on itself, and by implication, on its expert advisers. We can approve the proposed revision of sanitary measures, but who is going to revise them? The experts cannot be trusted, but then neither can the landlords. It is no good to plunge from one extreme to another.

THE COMMISSION.

(Daily Press, May 17th.)

The Commission appointed to consider the Sanitary Laws and their administration in this Colony report that after seven meetings the question of official corruption presented itself as a paramount consideration for them. It was not only actual bribery, but gross neglect of duty and most reprehensible slackness of method that they discovered. There has not been sufficient time yet to digest so long and so important a report, which we are quoting elsewhere serially, but to begin with we may glance over the headings. All sorts of difficulties were thrown in the way of the investigators, in itself a suggestion that there was much to hide. The Commission also finds that Ordinances have been very carelessly drawn up and passed, and harshly enforced. This, at least, is the general effect we gather from our preliminary reading. Property owners and poor Chinese have been alike to be pitied, and the weapon that has been as a scourge to their backs has been Red Tape, of the reddest and most tapey kind. It is not often that a damning indictment of such all-round application is published, and it is well for other communities that such things are not common. On the cubicle question alone, a subject on which the *Daily Press* has previously drawn the Government's attention to the unwisdom of its advisers, the Commission is very strong. "The advisers of the Government apparently did not study the question thoroughly," says the report. Of course they did not. It was a taking fall, and Hongkong has been run by faddists to a great extent. "A pane of glass in a covered verandah having been broken, the owner was asked to send

a plan showing the proposed repair; this would have cost a fee of about \$20 for a repair which could have been effected for sixty cents." If that case was a typical one, Hongkong officialdom as a whole does not seem to have deserved any more respect than Chinese Mandarinism gets. As to fads—"as late as 1903, fumigation and lime washing of infected houses formed a part of plague procedure, and it was not abandoned until Dr. PEARSE pointed out its uselessness as a germicide. The lime washing was done at the expense of the Government, at contract prices nearly a hundred per cent. higher than those paid by private individuals. "The waste of money thus entailed," says the report, "can be well imagined." The commission believes that it is the Sanitary Board's plague practices which cause "dumping," and it seems convinced that the misbehaviour of the Board's subordinate employees has been largely due to the neglect of those above them to check and supervise their work. Everybody's business seems to have been nobody's business, and the number of references to cases of failure to examine or report is great, and the Commissioners "are quite unable to understand a system (!) which permits" such irregularities. However, it does not merely find fault, this Report, and after it has been public a little longer, its practical suggestions for reform will demand attention.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 16th instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON, (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ, (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. MCL. MESSEUR (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN, (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY, (Captain-Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER, (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. C. McL. Messer took the oath, and assumed his seat as a member of the Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:—I have asked you to meet to-day in order to begin a short session in which with your assistance I hope to dispose of some outstanding business and legislation. The Financial Minutes that will be laid will be explained to you in the Finance Committee by the Colonial Secretary. Among the Bills that appear on the Orders of the Day is the Supplementary Appropriation. The only item in the Estimates for last year showing an excess of expenditure is Miscellaneous Services, due to the loss of a large quantity of Subsidiary Coin sent home last year to be sold. Among the Papers to be laid on the Table are the Financial Returns for the year 1906 which show a surplus of \$202,400 on the working for the year, and an excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December of \$652,236, not including arrears of Revenue and over-payments amounting to \$143,260.65, making a total excess of assets of

nearly \$890,000. These figures show a satisfactory financial condition. (Applause.) In addition we have had a large windfall this year in the shape of the probate duty amounting to over \$260,000 on the Estate of the late Sir Robert Jardine, whose name has been long and honourably connected with the history of this Colony. (Applause.) This sum enables us without any difficulty to provide at once the Government's contribution to the Typhoon Relief Fund. That contribution will be devoted to the construction of a new Typhoon Shelter. Thus what we gain by the demise of an old and justly respected colonist we are not inappropriately devoting to the benefit of the shipping of the Colony in building up whose prosperity his enterprise and ability had a very large share. (Applause.) Among the Reports to be laid is that of the Commission which was appointed in May last to enquire into the administration of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance and into the existence of corruption on the part of the officials entrusted with the administration of the Ordinance. The Report together with a minute on it by myself, in the capacity of Colonial Secretary before the departure of the Governor, which is not as full as I could have wished as it had to be prepared at short notice before the Governor's departure, is laid at this the first Meeting of the Legislative Council at the express wish of Sir Matthew Nathan, and his direction was that I should print with the report as much of the evidence, which is extremely voluminous, as would render the report intelligible. I intended to print the whole of the evidence of the European and other principal witnesses, but this would have delayed the report another two months. I have therefore only had printed as much of the evidence as is specifically referred to in the marginal notes of the report, and in two cases in the minutes upon it. But a typed copy of the evidence of the more important of the witnesses on the point principally of the administration of the Ordinance is laid on the table and can be consulted by Members or by the Public in this room, but must not be removed therefrom. The whole evidence, to give you an idea of the voluminousness of it, and the work entailed, is contained in those nine volumes. Gentlemen, this is not the time for me to offer comment in detail on the report. While open to no little criticism on many points, its recommendations are receiving the most serious consideration of the Government. The most valuable part of the work done by the Commissioners, is in laying bare a very wide-spread corruption among the subordinate officials of the Sanitary Department. The evidence furnished by the Commissioners has already resulted in the dismissal of a number of Officers, many of them English Sanitary Inspectors in enjoyment of very good salaries, while the cases of others are still under investigation. It is humiliating to read of Englishmen in the position of these men so utterly devoid of all self respect and lost to all sense of honour as to allow themselves to sink into such a life of dishonesty as is evidenced in the report. Their conduct, gentlemen, drags the name of Englishman of which every Englishman ought to be proud, into the mire, and tarnishes the national honour. On the other hand the conduct of a certain section of the Chinese population in offering and even pressing filthy bribes on men who in many instances never even asked for them is most reprehensible. We take trouble and spend money in teaching the principles of hygiene in our schools. I am taking steps to have the rising Chinese generation in Government Schools at any rate taught that it is as wicked to give as to receive a bribe. (Applause.) Gentlemen: The thanks of this Honourable Council and of the Community at large are due to the Commissioners and more especially to the Chairman of the Commission, for the enormous labour they have devoted to the work they have now accomplished and it is my earnest hope that improvement in the administration of the Sanitary Laws and a more healthy tone in the subordinate branches of the Department may follow on their investigation. (Applause.)

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table Finan-

cial Minutes Nos. 14 to 20, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee. The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded. Carried.

COLONIAL CEMETERY BYE-LAW.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to lay on the table the additional bye-law made by the Sanitary Board under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, and move its adoption. It refers to the schedule of fees for burials in cemeteries.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following papers:—Report of the Captain Superintendent of Police, and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for the year 1906; Report of the Botanical and Forestry Department for the year 1906; Report of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory for the year 1906; Report on Queen's College for the year 1906; Report on the Census of the Colony for the year 1906; Report on the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund for the year 1906; Report of the Harbour Master for the year 1906; Report on the study of Hygiene in Hongkong Schools for 1906; Report on the Blue Book for 1906; Report on the Police Magistrates Courts for the year 1906; Financial Returns for 1906; Report of the committee appointed to inquire whether earlier warning of the typhoon of September 18th, 1906, could have been given to shipping.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT, in the absence of the Hon. Mr. Pollock, asked the following questions standing in the latter member's name:—

1 (a) When will work on the new harbour of refuge be commenced?

(b) How long is such work likely to take?

2 (a) What was the cost of erecting the retaining wall on the south side of the Signal Station at Blackhead's point?

(b) Who has ultimately to bear the cost of such retaining wall?

3 (a) Has the Government received any report from Mr. Hallifax with reference to motor fire engines or an improved system of fire-alarms?

(b) If the Government has received such a report, will the Government lay it upon the table?

ANSWERS.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, in reply to the first and second sets of questions, said:—

1 (a) It is anticipated that the work of constructing the breakwater can be begun in about five months from the present time.

(b) On fuller investigation, the scheme originally proposed, with some important alterations based on the experience gained from the recent typhoon, is found to be much more costly than originally estimated. In view of this fact, a modification of the scheme is under consideration. But it is hoped that a beginning will be made with the work in about five months' time. The time occupied in carrying out the work will be from three to four years, according to the scheme finally settled.

2 (a). \$20,325.59.

(b). The Colonial Government. About 1887, the Government entered into an arrangement with the holders of Garden Lots to convert their holdings into Inland Lots on payment of premium and Crown rent at certain rates. The plan, on which the offer was based, showed a road in the position of Middle Road, and the lessee of the lot bounded by it has demanded ever since that this road should be constructed. The Government demurred to constructing it on account of the great cost involved. The sale of Kowloon Marine Lots 74 and 75 in 1902 provided an opportunity of getting the hill cut down free of cost and this was availed of, the purchasers of these lots being required to do the necessary cutting under their conditions of sale. It proved necessary to construct a retaining wall to support the War hill, which is the property of Department, and the wall has been constructed accordingly.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, in reply to the third question answered:—

Mr. Hallifax enquired into the systems of street fire alarms in use at several large towns in England and Scotland. He did not enquire into motor fire appliances. He has reported to me as Head of the Department but the report being of a confidential nature cannot be laid on the table. The matter of which system to adopt is now under consideration. It is hoped that at least 12 alarms of the selected system will be in position before the end of the year.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Four hundred and seventy-seven thousand eight hundred and forty-nine Dollars and fifty-three Cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1906, and that the reading of the title be sufficient for the purposes thereof.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

VALIDITY OF A JUDGE'S DECISIONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the validity of the proceedings of the Supreme Court of this Colony during the time that Alfred Gascoyne Wise, Esquire, held the office of Puisne Judge of such Court from the 25th day of June 1902 down to the present time, and that the reading of the title be sufficient for the purposes thereof.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885, and that the reading of the title be sufficient for the purposes thereof.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Married Women's Property Ordinance, 1906, and that the reading of the title be sufficient for the purposes thereof.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

PROBATES AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Probates Ordinance, 1887, and that the reading of the title be sufficient for the purposes thereof.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

HONGKONG COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

Hon. DR. HO KAI moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance for the incorporation of the Hongkong College of Medicine, and that the reading of the title be deemed sufficient for the purposes thereof.

Hon. MR. WAI YUK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, before we adjourn I would like to inform you that the hon. member who sits at the bottom of the left side of the table (Hon. Mr. Gresson) has asked for leave to proceed home to England on furlough. I am sure that I voice the sentiments of hon. members when I say we shall miss one whose urbanity, uprightness of character and business capacity render him as popular as he is respected (applause). We wish him a good holiday and a safe return to his country. The Council stands adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed—

POSTAL EXPENSES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Six hundred and fifty-nine Dollars (\$659) in aid of the vote, Post Office, Shanghai Postal Agency, Other Charges, Incidental Expenses.

POSTAL AGENCIES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and sixteen Dollars and ninety-seven Cents (\$116 97) in aid of the vote, Post Office, B.—Postal Agencies in China for the following items:—

Amoy, Other Charges, Incidental Expenses	\$54.22
Swatow, Other Charges Incidental Expenses	62.75
Total	\$ 16.97

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I suppose it is the usual thing—the dollar is going down and the expenses are going up.

COMMISSION EXPENSES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Eight hundred Dollars (\$800) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Public Health and Buildings Ordinance Commission.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—This is owing to extra printing.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Drainage, Large Flushing Tanks for Main Sewers, &c.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—This is a revote, MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Seven hundred and fifty Dollars (\$750 at 2/- = £75.0.0.) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Grants-in-aid of Other Institutions:—Imperial Institute.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—New cases are required for Hongkong exhibits.

POLICE AND PRISON DEPARTMENTS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand three hundred Dollars (\$1,300) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments B—Fire Brigade, Other Charges, for the following items:—

Coolie hire,	\$600
Incidental Expenses,	200
Repairs to Hose and Other Plant,	500

Total, \$1,300

LAND RESUMPTION.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two thousand five hundred and eighty-one Dollars and eighty-five Cents (\$2,581.85) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Compensation for resumption of Taxland lots in the New Territories.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

PROGRESS OF NEW HEADQUARTERS.

The levelling and filling in of the site for the new R.H.K.Y.C. Club House, with the sea walls &c., are now completed. The site is ready for building upon.

At a meeting over which the Commodore, Hon. Mr. May, presided, and at which Major Brooke, Messrs. Carpenter, Tooker, Warre, and H. Percy Smith (secretary and treasurer) were present, a tender for the erection of the buildings was accepted.

The buildings, which will be for the most part two stories high, comprise on the lower floor a large boat-house, gymnasium, lavatory and drying room and on the second floor spacious verandahs, committee room, ladies room, general reading room, and bar, dressing room, and lavatory. There will be also a large tennis court. The slip for yachts will accommodate ten racing yachts at one time. Altogether it is believed that the Club premises will be very fine and replete with all the usual club-house equipment.

The whole of the work is to be completed before the end of the year.

With regard to the appointment of Prince Ching as Comptroller-General of the Ministry of War we [N.C. Daily News], understand that this was recommended by H. E. Viceroy Yuan Shah-kai, as a counterstroke against the rapidly-rising power of Tieh Liang, President of the Ministry of War. As Prince Ching's feelings are inclined more towards progress than reaction, his appointment as Comptroller-General of the Ministry of War will serve in a measure to check the dangerous intrigues of the rapidly growing power of the reactionary party in Peking.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on May 14th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar General), Dr. H. McFarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

THE CATTLE DISEASE AT POKFULAM.

The PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the minutes of last meeting, mentioned that no fresh cases had occurred amongst the cattle at the Dairy Farm, and all infected cattle were now dead and buried. Therefore they hoped that the outbreak was at an end.

MR. HOOPER—How many have died?

THE PRESIDENT—Eight.

THE CUBICLE QUESTION AGAIN.

A letter from the Colonial Secretary on the question of Chinese cubicles read as follows:—

"I am directed to invite the attention of the Sanitary Board to the proviso contained in section 154 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance which, to judge from the representations recently made to the Government, does not appear to have been availed of by the Board in dealing with the cubicle question. I am now to suggest, as a practical means for giving as much latitude in the use of cubicles as is compatible with reasonable sanitary requirements to the poorer classes of Chinese inhabiting tenement houses, that the Board by means of some of its officers institute a house to house inspection and decide what number of cubicles might reasonably be allowed to be erected and maintained on each floor, and thereafter make recommendations accordingly for modification or exemption by the Governor in Council."

MR. A. SHELTON HOOPER minuted—A very sensible suggestion.

Hon. MR. HEWETT—The cubicle question has been one of the primary causes which has given rise to the complaints against sanitary laws. This matter has been fully dealt with in the report of the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission, which it is understood will be shortly published. The letter from the Colonial Secretary should not be replied to until the Board has had an opportunity of considering the report of the Commission.

MR. LAU CHU-PAK—Something like this should have been done by those responsible for the carrying out of the sanitary laws.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I would like to hear what the Commission have to say on the subject before I consider that letter.

MR. SHELTON HOOPER—Can you inform the Board, Mr. President, what the recommendations of the Commission in this respect are?

THE PRESIDENT—I cannot.

MR. SHELTON HOOPER—I know, as do several of my colleagues, but I thought it only fair that the official members should know. If you are not in a position to inform them I think there is no alternative but to let the matter stand over.

THE PRESIDENT—This question has already been dealt with. As gentlemen recollect, a resolution was recently passed appointing a sub-committee to consider applications for the retention of cubicles, and to act on the recommendation of the M. O. H. in granting these. There is no doubt that the matter is very urgent. In recent years the Board has not taken advantage of this proviso as they might have done. I think it would be well to appoint certain officers to assist the M. O. H. in this work. I would suggest Mr. Carter and Inspector Lambie and Inspector Lyons to assist the A. M. O. H. in Kowloon. A house to house visitation with the object of ascertaining the maximum number of cubicles which may be allowed in the upper floors of Chinese houses is a proposition to which no one can object, as there can be no doubt that the curtain cubicles are more harmful from a sanitary point of view than the previous wooden cubicles.

MR. SHELTON HOOPER—I am prepared to second this if you leave out the names of the officers, and let us discuss the names later confidentially.

THE PRESIDENT—Very good. Resolution carried.

THE SUSPENDED INSPECTORS.

An important letter was read from the Colonial Secretary, as follows:—

"I am directed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to state for the information of the Sanitary Board, that as a result of investigations initiated by the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission, charges of bribery were preferred on various occasions against Messrs. F. Ward, S. Kelly, J. R. Lee, T. P. Conolly, P. T. Lamble and F. O. Amy, inspectors in the Sanitary Department; and these officers with the exception of Mr. Lamble—the charge against whom was held to be not proved—were after due inquiry suspended by the Governor-in-Council from the exercise of the functions of their office, and their cases reported to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a view to dismissal from the Public Service. Lord Elgin concurred in the suspension and dismissal of Messrs. Ward, Lee, Conolly and Amy, but not Kelly, who, however, will not be again employed in the Sanitary Board."

The PRESIDENT proposed that the letter should be laid on the table.

Mr. HOOPER—Have the Press got it?

The PRESIDENT—They have seen it.

Mr. HOOPER—The reason why I asked was because the Press cannot always get papers. At times when they ask for them they are informed that they are out.

The letter was laid on the table.

TREATING PLAGUE CASES.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL reported as follows:—The Chinese Public Dispensary Committee wish to make use of a detached building on M.I.L. 198, Hunghom, numbered 86A, Hunghom West, as a District Plague Hospital. Certain repairs and alterations will have to be effected and I recommend that the building be approved (subject to these being made) as a place in which plague may be treated.

In another letter Mr. BREWIN made a similar recommendation, subject to such alterations as the Assistant Medical Officer of Health might suggest.

BACK YARD REQUIREMENTS.

Eight applications for exemptions from the requirements of section 175 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance were before the Board.

The most important was one in which Messrs. Palmer and Turner, on behalf of Messrs. Siemens and Company, asked for a modification with regard to No. 112 Wing Lok Street and 320 Des Voeux Road. Notice had been served on the architect requiring that back yards should be required, though this would mean the removal of half the kitchen floors and roofs. The houses, submitted Messrs. Palmer and Turner, were corner houses, well lighted and ventilated for the whole depth by windows opening into Morrison Street. The enforcement of the section would ruin the houses for the purposes for which they were built—tea houses. Some few months prior to the application for a modification (November, 1906) plans were submitted to the Sanitary Board for the enlarging of the side windows, etc., and then no question was raised as to back yards.

After consideration, at a previous meeting, the Board recommended that the houses be treated as special cases and that no proceedings be taken to enforce the provisions of section 175.

In a letter, dated April 23rd 1907, the Colonial Secretary informed the Board that the recommendation had not been approved of.

This was communicated to Messrs. Palmer and Turner, who again wrote asking that the Medical Officer of Health should inspect the premises.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER minuted that as the Governor-in-Council was unwilling that the matter should stand over pending the publication of the report of the Commission, he considered that the modification originally asked for should be granted.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I agree with Mr. Hooper.

The PRESIDENT explained that this was an application for exemption and not modification.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER—The late Governor stated that the report of the Commission would be laid on the table at the next meeting of the

Legislative Council, and as the orders are out fixing the meeting for Thursday, I beg to move that the matter stand over until that meeting is held.

The PRESIDENT—The matter is practically settled. We have received a letter stating that the application was not granted.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER—Quite so.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK seconded.

The motion was carried.

THE OBNOXIOUS SECTION.

A minute was submitted by the SECRETARY relative to section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in which he stated: I do not understand clearly what the Board desires by the condition in connection with the arrangement of half kitchen and half verandah in lieu of half kitchen and half yard. After pointing out that the arrangement of half kitchen and half verandah must be treated as a special case, he proceeded: What I desire to know is whether the Board, in treating the arrangement of half kitchen and half verandah as a special case, makes the recommendation on subject to the condition that the work of opening-up half verandah is put in hand at once, or whether this work is to stand over pending the consideration of the report of the Commission. If the Board insist on the work being done at once, and the Government after considering the report of the Commission does not amend section 175, the applicant can legally be compelled to open up that half of kitchen which he had converted into a verandah. In any case, if the procedure is followed, all those special cases, no matter whether the Board recommend exemption or an arrangement of half kitchen and half verandah, will have to be re-considered after the report of the Commission has been considered by the Government. I beg to suggest that the present procedure be altered, and that the Board in those cases where it is of opinion that exemption might be granted, apply to the Governor-in-Council for authority not to enforce section 175, and in those cases where an arrangement of half kitchen and half verandah would be satisfactory, apply for authority not to enforce section 175 on condition that this work is carried out. In both cases the decision should be final, and no time limit fixed. I further suggest that the Board recommend that sub-section 175 (4) be deleted, and that the proviso of sub-section 154 (9) be substituted therefor. If this were done sub-section 175 (4) would read as follows, and the Board would, with the consent of the Governor-in-Council, be able to exempt special cases from the requirement of section 175. At present neither the Governor-in-Council nor the Board has the power to exempt, even in these cases where no useful purpose would be served by enforcing the requirements of section 175. "Provided that the Board, with the consent of the Governor-in-Council shall have power in all cases to grant the modification of or exemption from the requirements of this section upon such conditions, if any, as the Board may deem expedient."

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER minuted—Is it at present necessary for the Board to apply to the Governor-in-Council for authority not to enforce section 175? What authority has the Governor-in-Council to compel the Board to enforce this section?

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—A very sensible suggestion. The Board can refrain from taking action in special cases without troubling the Governor-in-Council.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I am not sure that the Supreme Court could not compel unofficial members to enforce the law. I am sure the Government can compel Government Servants to do so.

Mr. HOOPER—With regard to cases coming under section 175, I would ask members to allow such to stand over till the report of the Commission is out. The official members being deprived of the information I and my unofficial colleagues have, I think it places them in a very inferior position. With reference to the minutes regarding the Governor-in-Council, I think I am only quoting the law when I say that the Governor-in-Council has no power to compel us to enforce any section of this Ordinance, because it does not come under his notice till we apply to him. If we don't comply with any section of this Ordinance, it is

open to any ratepayer to apply to the Supreme Court for a mandamus compelling us to do so. Under the circumstances I think no further discussion should take place until the report is out, and it has to be out by Thursday.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I would like to add that under existing conditions when the Board refers a recommendation to the Council, and that recommendation is ignored by the Governor-in-Council, a majority of the Board have a great deal of influence with the Governor-in-Council, but it so happens that a minority of the Board is capable of setting aside anything a majority has decided. This is a position I don't care to take (laughter). I agree with Mr. Hooper that the Board is not compelled to refer the matter to the Governor-in-Council.

Consideration of the question was deferred.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The returns for the week ending April 2th, 1907, showed that in the British and Foreign community the death rate was 16.4 compared with 29.9 in the corresponding week of last year, and that for the whole Colony the death rate was 21.0 as compared with 24.9 in the corresponding week of last year.

DU'PING THE DEAD.

A further letter from the Government, dated 3rd May, relative to dead bodies found cast away in the street was submitted as follows:—Sir, I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, from which it is inferred that the Sanitary Board has no suggestions to offer for the mitigation of the grave nuisance and outrage to decency committed by the Chinese population in casting away large numbers of their dead. (2) It appears that two remedies were suggested to the Board—one, the cremation of abandoned corpses, the other the institution of more Chinese branch hospitals. I may state that the Government, as at present advised, does not propose to adopt the former, and that if fails to see what useful object would be gained by considering the latter until it is made apparent that the existence of the branch hospitals and dispensaries which have been already established is producing an effect in the mitigation of the evil. (3) It was because the periodical returns furnished to the Government showed that no such effect had as yet followed the institution of these hospitals and dispensaries that the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 6th ultimo was by Sir Matthew Nathan's direction, addressed to the Board. (4) As a misapprehension appears to exist among the members of the Board on the subject of the reason for the dumping of dead bodies, I may state that the Police Department can furnish abundant evidence that such dumping existed in an aggravated form prior to the year 1894, and the institution of measures for the prevention and mitigation of plague.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted: Before 1894 if my memory serves me correctly, only the bodies of the infants of the most ignorant class of Chinese were dumped, where superstition prevailed over common sense, but not the bodies of grown up persons. Amongst the better class, their infants when seriously sick or in a moribund state were generally sent to the convents. It would be interesting to know the number of abandoned bodies picked up, where they were picked up, and their ages, during the last 20 years. As I said before, the question requires careful investigation.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—The following particulars relating to the practice of abandoning bodies in the streets, etc., and its connection with infectious diseases have been collected from the annual sanitary reports, the plague reports, and the reports of officers in charge of mortuaries. Smallpox—In 1903 out of 41 Chinese cases of smallpox 23 or 56 per cent were found abandoned in the streets. Plague—According to Dr. Pearce the ratio of the number of bodies of persons who had died from plague picked up in the streets, etc., to the total number of reported cases of plague was in 1898, 23.1; in 1899, 24.2; in 1900, 29.5; in 1901, 19.7; in 1902, 24.6; and in 1903, 31.7 per cent. In other reports the percentage is given in 1876 as 23.0; in 1898 as 36.0 and 25.1; in 1899 as 40.0; in 1900 as 37.1; in 1904 as 26.0; in 1905 as 18.4 per cent. In Kowloon in 1904, 106 deaths from plague were registered, and of these 50 bodies or 47 per cent were found abandoned in the streets.

In 1904 the total number of Chinese deaths registered in Kowloon was 1,164. Of this number 407 or 35 per cent were deaths of persons whose bodies had been picked up in the streets, etc.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL submitted the following returns relative to the burials without formal inquiry and the births of Chinese:—Magistrate's return of burials without formal inquiry, 1887 to 1906: identity of bodies unknown.

Year.	Total.	No. of deaths of Chinese registered.	Percent- age of column 2 & 3.	No. of cases of plague.
1887	195	5,071	4	
1888	271	5,785	4	
1889	116	4,407	2	
1890	136	4,865	3	
1891	211	5,183	4	
1892	222	4,722	4	
1893	235	5,230	4	
1894	279	7,156	4	2,552*
1895	283	5,209	5	44
1896	400	5,607	7	1,204
1897	489	4,484	11	21
1898	907	5,883	17	1,320
1899	901	5,941	15	1,486
1900	1,023	6,471	15	1,087
1901	1,088	6,670	16	1,651
1902	1,144	6,431	17	572
1903	1,507	5,875	25	1,415
1904	1,150	5,882	19	510
1905	1,139	6,290	18	304
1906	1,820	8,087	22	

* deaths

Ratio of the number of burials without formal inquiry to Chinese population.

Year.	Chinese population.	Number of burial without formal inquiry.	Percentage of col. 3 to col. 2
1891	210,995	211	10%
1897	233,280	489	21%
1901	291,786*	1,088	37%
1906	307,388*	1,820	59%

*Inclusive of New Kowloon and exclusive of the rest of the New Territory.

Number of births of Chinese registered in the year 1887 to 1906.

Year.	No. of births.	Year.	No. of births.
1887	1511	1897	1125
1888	1469	1898	963
1889	1502	1899	852
1890	1450	1900	678
1891	1529	1901	848
1892	1660	1902	966
1893	1575	1903	691*
1894	1250	1904	799*
1895	1195	1905	761*
1896	978	1906	801

*Exclusive of births registered in New Kowloon.

Ratio of births to population.

Year.	Chinese pop'n.	British registered	No of birth per 100 of pop'n.
1891	210,995	1529	7.2
1897	233,280	1125	4.8
1901	274,543*	848	3.1
1906	289,552*	801	2.8

*Exclusive of the New Territories.

MR. LAU CHU PAK MINUTED: These figures bear out the statement that dumping is due to the institution of measures for combatting plague. I doubt that the four and a half per cent, previous to 1904 were not in the majority of cases the bodies of newly born infants.

The following tables regarding the dumping of dead bodies by the Chinese were considered. Bodies found on

Year.	Lan i	Harbour
1893	195	40
1897	351	138

Increase 80 per cent. 245 per cent.

The number of bodies other than Chinese in negligible. In 1893 the total was 11; in 1897, 27.

Abandoned bodies in the streets, etc., and number of cases of plague, small-pox in Victoria and Kowloon, in 1905 and 1906.

Year.	A.	B.	C.	Total.
1905	614	180	25	205
1906	796	624	132	756

KOWLOON.

Year.	A.	B.	C.	Total.
1905	259	98	10	108
1906	451	199	37	236

A signifies number of abandoned bodies; B cases of plague; C small-pox.

Comparison between number of abandoned bodies and number of cases of plague and small pox in the first quarter of 1906 and 1907.

	A.	B.	C.	Total.
1906	171	92	87	179
1907	222	3	38	141

VICTORIA.

	A.	B.	C.	Total.
1906	69	4	31	35
1907	87	5	37	42

KOWLOON.

Comparison between number of deaths and number of abandoned bodies in 1905 and 1906:

Year.	Deaths.	Abandoned bodies.	Percentage.
1905	6594	1063	17
1906	8087	1447	13

1905=1 in 6; 1906=2 in 11.

Plague and small-pox in 1906: number of deaths in the first quarter of the year:

	PLAGUE.	SMALLPOX.
January	2	5
February	24	24
March	60	23
Total	86	52

Of the 86 deaths from plague 52 (or 60 per cent.) occurred in two out of ten districts.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following motions standing in my name:—

1. That in the opinion of this Board the large increase in recent years in the number of dead bodies placed in the streets is due to the sanitary measures adopted since 1894 against plague and small-pox.

2. That a reduction in the number of dead bodies placed in the streets can be effected only by obtaining the assistance of the Chinese.

3. That to obtain the effective co-operation of the Chinese a revision of the bye-laws relating to infectious disease is necessary, and that such a revision is called for on other grounds as well.

With regard to Mr. Hooper's minute, I may say I have asked the Secretary to ask you to have a return drawn up giving these facts regarding the bodies which were found in the streets. None of the returns I have compiled show exactly what Mr. Hooper wishes. The resolutions I propose, and which, I hope, the Board will adopt, are in answer to the Colonial Secretary's letter. I have little to add to what I said at the last meeting, and, I think, the figures in your possession are in favour of the theory I bring forward in part one. They certainly give no support to the theory that poverty is the cause of bodies being dumped, unless you are prepared to argue that poverty has increased greatly in Hongkong of recent years. As regards part two I can only reiterate what I said before, that we abandoned the extraordinary police measures and there is no chance of trying them again. We cannot acquiesce in the present abominable state of affairs. We must move, and the only line of movement possible is to obtain the cooperation of the Chinese. I am satisfied that the cooperation of the leading Chinese can be obtained in enforcing any reasonable sanitary measures, but that does not take us very far, because we must first satisfy the mass of the Chinese, and the leading Chinese must first obtain their assistance. They cannot do so, however, unless we convince them that our sanitary measures pay due regard to their religions, customs and prejudices. We must recollect that the mass is by no means enlightened. We have to persuade our friends to assist us, and they will have to persuade their fellow countrymen and put pressure on them which we cannot. That is the object of the third part of my resolution. We must have a revision of our bye-laws not only because we want the co-operation of the Chinese, but because the bye laws at present are ineffective and not suited to local circumstances, nor to the social life of the Chinese. When I ask the Board, as I now do, to pay regard to economical considerations, to substitute a lower standard which we may reasonably expect to maintain, in place of a high one which we know in practice will never or seldom be acted up to, I only repeat what the late Dr. Russell of Glasgow said about disinfection. Surely I have ample scientific authority for asking our expert advisers to reconsider their attitude. It is the only means for obtaining the assistance and co-operation of the Chinese,

and without this assistance and co-operation we are simply marking time. We may detect one case, but that does not lead to detection of the second. If we secure the co-operation of the community in notifying cases, the notification of one case naturally leads to the notification of more, and at last we are in sight of some progress.

MR. FUNG WA-CHUN—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution made by the Registrar-General, and in doing so hope the Board will not gather the impression that Chinese members of the Board wish that the principles of the sanitary administration of the Colony should be made to suit the uneducated Chinese. We do our utmost to get our masses to comply with the sanitary regulations, but at the same time, I think, the Board should not inflict any hardship on them. It has been proved that most of the bodies found in the streets were not plague cases, which tends to show that the stringent measures taken by the sanitary authorities scare the Chinese. If the resolutions of the Registrar-General were put into effect, and the bye-laws revised so that the sanitary regulations would be less severe, I am sure the Board would receive the hearty co-operation of the Chinese.

MR. LAU CHU PAK—I heartily support these resolutions, which, in my opinion, embody nothing but facts and common sense. The report of the Commission, when published, will no doubt shed further light on these statements. As regards Chinese co-operation, I may avail myself of this opportunity to say a few words about the public dispensaries, or the Tung Wa branch hospitals as they were first called. These dispensaries were started about three years ago by the Hon. Mr. Brewin and the Chinese members of this Board, with no other object in view than to assist the Government in stopping the dumping of dead bodies; to bring within easy reach of the labouring class of the Chinese the benefits of European science; to help them to dispose of dead bodies and to care for their sick in a proper and legal manner; and last of all, to enlighten them as to the requirements of the sanitary laws. These dispensaries are entirely supported by subscriptions raised amongst Chinese residents. The Government has not contributed one cent. What assistance the Government has given is that the committee paid \$7 per square foot for a small site to erect a dispensary at Kau U Fong, and when a small piece of ground was applied for, for depositing the dead box and ambulance the Government reluctantly granted a temporary lease of five or six feet below the level of the street, which was most unsuitable for the purpose. After a great deal of trouble the Registrar-General and the Chinese members succeeded in opening six of these dispensaries. This number is far too small to meet the wants of a big population, and to restore the confidence of the Chinese in a short time, which the doings of the Board during the last thirteen years have taken away. It is admitted that to lose confidence is very easy, but it is very difficult to regain it. Now, according to the tone of the Colonial Secretary's letter to the Board, it is apparent that the efforts and labour of the Registrar-General and the Chinese members, instead of earning the appreciation of the Government and obtaining a helping hand from them, have called forth adverse criticism which almost amounts to ridicule. Sir, I think I may be pardoned for saying that such an attitude on the part of the Government discourages those who spend time, money and brains, not for their own amusement or personal profit, but for the general welfare of the Colony. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the work undertaken by the Registrar-General and the Chinese members is far from being pleasant or easy. On one hand we have to see the requirements of the law complied with; on the other we have to meet the wishes of the Chinese, so that practically our work lies, to use a familiar expression, between the devil and the deep sea. Although during the last few years the Chinese have had these dispensaries to help them, the fact remains that many restrictions are imposed by the sanitary laws in force. I can say that if these dispensaries were not in existence there would have been more dumping than there has been. That they have done good work, and are still doing it, there can be no doubt. Every

day they give away 'medicines free of charge and treat and cure hundreds of people. A record kept by the Registrar-General, copies of which are supplied to the Government, bears testimony to what I have just said (Applause).

Hon. Mr. HEWITT—With regard to the remarks made by the hon. Registrar-General and other members I beg in the first place to say that I wish the Registrar-General had been a little more definite when speaking of the changes to be made in the bye-laws. It would have rather helped us if some sort of scheme had been put before us by the Registrar-General as to the lines on which we should work. That some change should be made is apparent by the number of dead bodies dumped in the streets; we should make regulations to do away with a crying evil. Personally, I am of opinion that the experiments made by Sir Henry Blake were highly successful, and should have been carried on. If something of the same sort were done again now, no doubt a great deal of good would result. We will have to amend our regulations. They are altogether too stringent, and as long as we insist on them, so long will we find the Chinese dumping dead in the streets. I am sure, I, and I hope we all thoroughly appreciate the good work done by the Registrar-General and the gentlemen working with him, in trying to bring about a better state of affairs, and I think it is altogether wrong that private individuals should be called upon to incur an expenditure which should fall upon the rate-payers of Hongkong. I think it is our business to form some sort of regulations under which the prejudices and superstitions of the lower class Chinese could be coped with, and that the expenses of these dispensaries should all be met out of the public funds. I should be very glad indeed to see a sub-committee of the Board formed to consider matters, and to frame at the earliest possible date some scheme to be submitted to the Government. No doubt in the past we have not done what we might have done in obtaining the co-operation of the Chinese, and this is the position at the present moment—there is an enormous increase in the dumping of dead bodies.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The resolution is worded in an extraordinary manner. Anyone reading it would be forced to the conclusion that the sanitary measures adopted and carried out had been forced upon the Board in some way. But bye-laws providing for these measures have been passed by the Board, and the Board has it in its power to amend them whenever it thinks fit. I don't see that the wording of the resolution is given in the form one would expect, and I don't see that it should be necessary for the Board to put forward any such resolution, as the remedy lies in its own hands.

Mr. HOOPER—When I first read these resolutions I was quite under the impression that the Registrar-General had seen the report of the Commission. At any rate I can say that these resolutions suggest things which I am sure are not very inconsistent with the document which will be in the hands of members of the Board within three days. As an Englishman here, and a member of this Board, I must say that I don't like the word "only" in the second resolution. I think if you (Registrar-General) will cut out the word "only," and say we will ask their co-operation, then it will meet with my approval. With regard to the dispensaries about which so much has been spoken, it has been suggested that they should be provided by Government at the public expense. I am heartily in sympathy with that suggestion. Whether or not the results will be worth the trial, and the time and money expended, time alone will prove. What money is it, we ask, should be expended on these dispensaries? The public rates. And when it is admitted that \$17 out of every \$30 is supplied by Chinese, I think we ought to expend a little at any rate, and give them an opportunity of experimenting and showing what they can do. It is only reasonable to let them have these dispensaries and run them in connection with the admirable work carried on by the medical authorities in this Colony. Personally, my opinion, when I read the document was, that cremation was the best thing to do. I think it is out of place for any one to claim respect and reverence for the dead when people so far forget those who belong to them, and dump their bodies in the streets, and leave

them to the four winds of heaven. I am quite willing that a trial should be given to these dispensaries and if, after having given the Chinese as many dispensaries as satisfied them, dumping continued, we should reserve to ourselves the right to take whatever further action we consider necessary. With reference to the bye-laws we are asked to revise, I think, Sir, that after the experience you had in this Colony you will admit that they are capable of revision. The sanitary laws themselves are not so bad, but the grievances suffered have been due to the harsh and partial manner in which they have been administered by the lower officers. I am not speaking of the higher officers. If the lower officers had exercised more discretion, and shown more consideration for the feelings of the Chinese, we should have heard less complaints from the Chinese than we have. In these circumstances I heartily support the resolution, provided the word "only" is cut out.

The PRESIDENT—I agree with the Vice-President that instead of bringing forward a motion of this sort, which is very indefinite the Registrar-General ought to have formulated the alteration that he wished to be made in the bye-laws. With reference to the motion, No. 1 is correct; No. 2 refers to obtaining Chinese assistance which, as I stated, at the last meeting it seems impossible to obtain in these anti-plague measures. Every attempt has been made to obtain this co-operation. Early in 1903 we went so far as to exempt houses, excepting the floor on which the cases of plague had been discovered. That was a great concession. Later the officers of the Board assisted Sir Henry Blake in his cleansing scheme. These operations were commenced in 1903, and, I think, have been most effectual in dealing with the plague. With regard to these anti-plague measures more might have been done by the Registrar-General and the Chinese members of the Board, and also by the committee of the Tung Wa hospital if, instead of opposing us, they had tried to explain to the Chinese—

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL interposed an objection which was not audible.

The PRESIDENT—You have stated these measures were oppressive.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I have never stated they were oppressive.

The PRESIDENT—You said so at the last meeting, but I will not admit that they are oppressive or have been non-effective. If more assistance had been rendered by the Registrar-General and the Chinese members of the Board, I think this dumping would never have been so bad as it is at present. To prove that the bye-laws have not been ineffective I will give you an outline of our procedure during the last ten years. Since these plague measures were brought into force the number of cases has diminished very considerably. In the years from 1903 to 1905 the average number of cases was 541, while in the three years before that the average was 1,212. If figures prove anything, that proves that the bye-laws have been effective, and that the measures taken have been more or less successful. With reference to the present year it seems we are not going to have a severe outbreak. Last year the outbreak was more severe than in the two previous years a fact which was accounted for by the scarcity of water interfering with the cleansing arrangements. I am convinced we have gone far enough in the way of concessions, if not too far, and I hope the Board will not make these bye-laws any less stringent than they are. We have gone as far as we can possibly go in the way of concessions. The Registrar-General referred to what was being done in India, but the last figures show that plague is worse there than ever it was, so that it would not be wise to adopt the policy that has been instituted there. No one can say that plague has increased in Hongkong. If you wish to compare countries near at hand, I have only to mention Formosa where the results show that plague is just as severe as it was three or four years ago.

Mr. HOOPER asked if the President had heard regarding plague at Canton.

The PRESIDENT replied that there were no reliable figures from Canton, and added that the disease was worse in Macao and Canton this year than in Hongkong. He also pointed

out that the same measures were meted out to Europeans as to Chinese.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK interposed with the remark that the officers did not behave in such an inconsiderate manner in European houses as in Chinese.

The PRESIDENT was convinced that more good would have resulted from the discussion if the Registrar-General and the Chinese members had suggested in what way the bye-laws could be amended to the satisfaction of the Chinese.

Mr. HUMPHREYS pointed out that the increase of plague prior to 1903 was probably due to the influx of population from the mainland, owing to the Boxer rising and other troubles.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL having replied, the vote was taken, when all three resolutions were carried.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 13th May.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

CONSENTED TO JUDGMENT.

Leung Ng Shi, a spinster, sued the Sun Choy Brick Company Limited for \$150, being balance of rent due in respect of premises occupied by the defendants at 15, Queen's Road West. The original amount due was \$238, of which \$88 had been paid on account. Mr. Dixon, from the office of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the defendants, and consented to judgment on their behalf.

Wednesday, May 15th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

AN INDEMNITY CLAIM.

Lam Sin Chang and She Wai Chung brought an action against Yik Tong to recover \$13,581.94 being money paid by plaintiffs as sureties for defendant on 5th May, 1905, on a promissory note dated 5th August, 1904, and made by the plaintiffs and defendant and one Ho Li Cho, in favour of the International Banking Corporation, and as to \$748.60, money paid, and in the alternative Lam Sin Chang claims the sum of \$13,581.94 under a deed of indemnity, dated 22nd September, 1905, made between Lam Sin Chang and the defendant.

Mr. M. W. Slade, (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for plaintiffs, and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Dixon, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Slade read the statement of claim which set out that Lam Sin Chang was a gentleman residing in Macao and She Wai Chung was a merchant carrying on business in partnership with Lam Sin Chang under the style of the Cheung Yu Hong at 61, Bonham Strand West, Victoria. The defendant was a gentleman residing in Macao. Lam Sin Chang, on 21st August 1903, at the request of the defendant became surety together with the defendant to one Ho Li Cho as compradore of the Chinese American Commercial Company, and on the 2nd September 1903, the defendant executed a deed of indemnity whereby the defendant indemnified the plaintiff Lam Sin Chang so long as he remained one of the sureties of the said Ho Li Cho against all losses and charges which Lam Sin Chang might incur or suffer by reason of his becoming one of the sureties for Ho Li Cho. The plaintiff Lam Sin Chang and the defendant continued to be at all material times sureties of the said Ho Li Cho. In the months of July and August 1904, the said Chinese American Commercial Company had a quantity of goods in the possession of the International Banking Corporation as their agents. The goods had not been taken up in

due course by the purchasers, and Ho Li Cho, as compradore of the said Company, had the duty of reselling the goods for and on behalf of the said Company, and was responsible for all losses which might accrue on the re-sale. The Company agreed with Ho Li Cho to give him possession of the goods for re-sale and to accept \$43,250 in settlement of claims in respect thereof, and further to accept promissory notes, satisfactory to the said Banking Corporation for that amount. The defendant thereupon requested the plaintiff Lam Sin Chang to give or procure such security, representing to the said Lam Sin Chang that he would be quite safe in so doing by reason of the deed of indemnity. Relying upon these representations and upon the deed of indemnity and the agreement mentioned in the next paragraph, Lam Sin Chang procured his partner She Wai Chung, to join with him and the defendant in giving security to the Banking Corporation by making with Ho Li Cho the three joint promissory notes for \$14,416.67, each dated 5th August, 1904, and payable three, six, and nine months respectively after the said date. On these notes being made, the Banking Corporation gave Ho Li Cho possession of the goods. Prior to making the notes it was agreed between the plaintiffs and the defendant that as between themselves in the event of Ho Li Cho failing to pay the said amounts on the due dates the defendant would repay to the plaintiffs any amounts they might have to pay to the Banking Corporation. The Cheung Yu Hong paid the notes on the due dates and received the amount of the first note and \$2,000 from Ho Li Cho, and \$14,000 from the defendant, leaving a sum of \$12,833.33 due by defendant to plaintiffs. On the 25th April, 1905 the plaintiffs, at the request of the defendant, took action against Ho Li Cho to recover the amount of the second of the notes less the \$2,000 paid as aforesaid by Ho Li Cho. Plaintiffs obtained judgment in that action. The net expenses of the action paid by plaintiffs amounted to \$748.60.

The Chief Justice—The judgment resulted in nothing?

Mr. Slade—Quite so. The man had absconded. Proceeding, he read—The plaintiffs have requested payment of the said sums of \$12,833.33 and \$748.60, but the defendant had refused to pay the same or any part thereof. They therefore claimed those amounts now.

The statement of defence showed that the defendant admits the first three paragraphs of the claim. As to paragraph four, at the time of making the promissory notes the Chinese American Commercial Company had ceased to carry on business in this Colony, and the defendant had therefore ceased to be liable as surety under contract or deed of indemnity. The defendant admits the first part of paragraph five, but denies that Ho Li Cho had the duty of reselling the goods or was responsible to the company as alleged. The godown warrants were in the hands of the International Banking Corporation, who as agents for the said company sold the goods to Ho Li Cho and took as payment therefor the promissory notes. The defendant denies that he requested Lam Sin Chang to give or procure such security as the representation set out in paragraph seven, or on any other representation whatever. The defendant admits that the plaintiffs joined with him in making the promissory notes but denies that the plaintiffs or either of them relied on any such representation or agreement, or that any such representation or agreement as were mentioned in paragraphs eight and nine of the statement of claim were ever made. The defendant admits that the Cheung Yu Hong has paid the notes, and has been repaid the amounts set forth in paragraph 10, but he denies that the sum of \$12,833.33 or any other sum is due by him to the plaintiffs. At the time of making the promissory notes, and as a condition precedent to making them it was agreed that the Cheung Yu Hong should hold the godown warrants which the Bank had given up on the delivery to it of the promissory notes, and that the said warrants should not be handed over to Ho Li Cho until he had paid the price of goods mentioned in the said warrants to the said Cheung Yu Hong, and thereby enabled the said firm to pay

the notes as they became due. The Cheung Yu Hong failed to carry out the agreement mentioned in the last paragraph, but without the knowledge and consent of the defendant, and contrary to the terms of the said agreement, handed over the warrants to Ho Li Cho who got possession of the said goods without paying the price to the Cheung Yu Hong. By reason of the facts set out in paragraphs eight and nine the plaintiffs' firm are solely responsible for any loss incurred through the non-payment of the said promissory notes by Ho Li Cho. By reason of the failure of the plaintiffs to carry out the agreement the plaintiffs did not receive the money from Ho Li Cho to enable them to pay the promissory notes as they became due, and thereupon the defendant paid the plaintiffs \$14,000 to enable them to do so. The defendant, on account of the facts set forth, has sustained the loss of \$14,000, and craves leave to counterclaim against the plaintiffs for that amount. The defendant denies that he ever asked the plaintiffs or either of them to take action against Ho Li Cho, as alleged. The fourth section of the Statute of Frauds has not been complied with.

Plaintiff in the counter claim repeated the last five paragraphs in the above statement of defendant.

The defendants in the cross-action denied that any agreement was ever entered into that they should hold the godown warrants and not hand them over to Ho Li Cho until he paid the price of the goods. On the 13th August, 1904, Ho Li Cho handed the warrants to the plaintiff She Wai Chung, with a request that the firm of Cheung Yu Hong would endeavour to sell the goods on commission. Thirty-six warrants were returned to Ho Li Cho, and the goods mentioned in the remaining seven warrants were sold by public auction at the request of the defendant in the first case, and the net proceeds applied to reducing the claim against the defendant in respect of the action mentioned in paragraph 11 of the statement of claim. Ho Li Cho has run away.

Evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

Thursday, 16th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

ALLEGED WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

R. Morgan who was represented by Mr C. F. Dixon of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings sued the owners of the s.s. *Shun Lee* for \$1,000 for wrongful dismissal. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the defendant company, who allege that plaintiff was dismissed on account of drunkenness and other complaints including bringing a woman on board, and leaving Hongkong without his chief officer.

John Mounsey, chief officer of the *Kien-yung*, said he had known Captain Morgan for four or five years, and knew him to be a temperate man. He had gone on the *Shun Lee* almost daily before that vessel sailed to have a chat with Captain Morgan, and had never seen him intoxicated. On 4th April he was on board the *Shun Lee* when Ing Kai came on board. The captain was perfectly sober.

Cross-examined—You went on board the *Shun Lee*?—Yes.

To see him off?—I was not supposed to see him off.

And you had a parting glass?—Many a time. I have come away without a drink.

You had never a drink with him?—Oh yes, I have had a dochanthor with him.

His Honour—I always thought the dochanthor was the last drink.—There were many drinks before it (laughter).

You were there on another occasion?—Yes.

And was drinking dry then?—Yes.

There were glasses on the table?—Yes.

And you did not drink?—No.

Are you a teetotaler?—No, and don't intend to be. I can take a drink and leave it like any other white man.

Mr. Muller, formerly a customs officer at Kowloon, spoke to seeing Captain Morgan

when he went on board the *Shun Lee* but never found him drunk.

Cross-examined.—You always had a drink with him?—Not always.

Were you not made to resign the Customs on account of your intemperance?—No.

C. H. Dodd, manager of Ramsey and Co., said he considered plaintiff, whom he had known for 14 years, a temperate man.

Cross-examined—You swear you have never seen him under the influence of liquor?—I have never seen him drunk.

His Honour—This is a relative term.

Mary Raymond, who had lived with the plaintiff for eight years, said she had accompanied him on three trips. She received permission on the first occasion from a Chinese owner, who told her she could travel on the ship any time she liked. She had never interfered with any body on board.

Cross-examined—You are quite capable of taking care of yourself if anybody should put upon you?—No (laughter).

Case adjourned.

MARINE COURT.

Wednesday, May 15th.

BEFORE COMMANDER BASIL R. H. TAYLOR, R.N. (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

"NOT PLYING FOR HIRE."

P.C. Unwin proceeded against Messrs. Blackhead & Co., being the owners of the motor launch *Gussie*, for having allowed that launch to ply without having on board a master holding either a certificate of qualification recognised by the Board of Trade, or a certificate of competency from the Harbour Master of Hongkong, at 11.20 a.m., on the 10th instant, in the waters of the Colony.

Mr. H. W. Looker appeared for defendants.

P.C. Unwin deposed to stopping the launch on the day in question and asking the coxswain for his certificate, he replied that he had no coxswain's certificate but an engineer's certificate. Witness asked him to produce it, but he replied "my master has it."

Mr. Looker argued that the word plying meant plying for hire, and asserted that there was no evidence of the *Gussie* having plied for hire.

His Worship, who said it was admitted that the launch was not plying for hire, reserved his decision.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

May 13th.

PHILANTHROPIC CALCULATIONS.

The following facts were made known to the Viceroy in a recent letter sent to him by the American Vice-Consul General here. I am of opinion they will do much towards increasing the terms of intimacy between Chinese and Americans, if they be brought before the notice of the public through the native press.

In a letter from the Executive Committee of the American National Red Cross Society there occurs the following summary of American aid so far rendered to the famine sufferers in China:—

"Many thanks for Mr. Rodger's [American Consul General at Shanghai] despatch. He speaks of the \$45,000 sent in money as representing 30 per cent. of all money received from all over the world, not counting the \$20,000 worth of flour we have shipped nor the 7,500 bushels of seed wheat. As since then we have sent for the *Christian Herald* \$65,000 more, and we hope to ship \$10,000 more worth of flour on the next Pacific Mail steamer, I think this, with the transport of \$100,000 worth of provisions that the *Christian Herald* plans to send in April, will make a total contribution of about \$250,000 in value, without counting the Government donation of the use of the transport *Buford*."

These donations represent on the part of the people of the United States a warm and cordial sympathy for the Chinese, which, it is supposed, cannot fail to make an impression in China.

COMMERCIAL.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, May 16th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$830	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$880	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$900	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$940	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$600	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$690	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$935	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	—	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$915	to	—	do.
Benares Old	—	to	—	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 18th May, state that 19 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 68,300 tons of coal. Since April 27th 11 steamers have arrived with a total of 36,040 tons of coal.

Further quantities of Labuan have been taken for trial at \$8 per ton ex-ship. Australian.—Small sales are reported at \$12 to \$12.25 ex-ship. Japanese Coal has ruled quiet with small sales. Welsh has been neglected.

Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$14.00 to 15.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$11.50 to \$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.00	nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.00 to \$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$7.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$7.75 to \$8.25	steady.
Bengal	\$9.00 to \$9.50	nominal.
Labuan Lump	\$8.00	steady.

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 17th May.—Small business at last quotations. Stock about 1,700 bales.

Bombay	\$17.50 to \$20.50	per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon	—	—
and Dacca	20.50 to 22.50	..
Shanghai and Japanese	25.00 to 26.00	..
Tungchow and Ningpo	25.00 to 26.00	..
Reported sales, 200 bales.	—	—

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong, 17th May, states:—The firmness assumed by holders, as mentioned in last report, was not of long duration, for shortly after the departure of the mail a disposition was again shown to meet buyers. Contrary to expectations, however, no improvement has taken place in demand, as with the return of the country buyers to market after the completion of the tomb-worshipping festivities, the usual Spring enquiry was confidently looked for. Business, consequently, has been on very small lines, and sales confined to actual requirements, No. 10s as usual forming the bulk of the settlements. Quotations have again further receded \$1 to \$2 per bale, and looking at the anxiety of holders to realize, no abatement in the downward course is apparent. There is little or no change in our estimate of stocks, the recent arrivals being about the same as the off-take during the interval. Bombay is reported strong, with prices ruling 4 to 5 Rupees above the equivalent of our quotations. Sales of the interval aggregate 3,581 bales, arrivals amount to 5,482, unsold stocks estimated at 69,000, and sold but uncleared goods in second hands 30,000 bales. Local Manufacture.—Prices are unchanged, but no business is reported. Japanese Yarn.—Continues in demand, and sales of 150 bales No. 16s at \$120, and of 250 bales No. 20s from \$123 to \$132 are reported. Raw Cotton.—There is no change in the continued quietness of this market. Both Indian and China descriptions are dull and with the exception of a sale of 50 bales superfine New Bengal at \$20½ and that of a parcel of 60 bales 'Thoonchow' at \$23½, no large business could be induced. Estimated unsold stocks are 1,350 bales Indian and 400 China. Quotations are \$17 to 20½ Bengals and \$22 to 24 Chinese. Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly in sympathy with silver and closes steady to-day at Rs. 160 for T/T and Rs. 160½ for Post. On Shanghai 73, and on Japan 105. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 11th instant, viz:—Indian.—Market strong, prices showing an advance of 1 to 3 Taels and closing firm. Total sales about 11,000 bales, and unsold stock estimated at 110,000 bales. Japanese.—Market weak and prices have declined 1 to 2 Taels at which decline some 2,000 bales are reported to have changed hands. Local.—Sales reported are about 800 bales No. 16s at Fls. 80. In view of the considerable accumulation of stock some of the mills have commenced working short time.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 9th May, 1907, states:—Recent reports make it clear that the situation in Manchuria is by no means in the settled state interested parties would like it to be thought. There seems to be almost hopeless differences of opinion between the Native Authorities and the Japanese, the consequence being that the Custom House at Dalny is not yet established. It is becoming more and more evident that it will be necessary for some one else to take a hand in the matter if international rights are to be respected. This of course accounts for the continued stagnation of trade in Newchwang; and scarcely anything is being shipped from here via Dalny. Some much needed rain is said to have fallen in the Tientsin neighbourhood, and from most other quarters the reports are fairly propitious as regards the crops. In the nearer provinces, however, there is still a great deal of distress, and, although not so high as it was, rice is still very dear, and must remain so until after the harvest at all events. Clearances have not been very brisk, but on the whole the figures published look much more encouraging, especially to Hankow. To Corea shipments appear to be falling off. There is a steamer at the berth but she is not expected to take much cargo. Advices from Manchester continue to report a strong market with a good business doing for India. Cotton is soaring higher and higher, the latest quotation in Liverpool being 6.72d. for Mid-American spot and 6.27d. for futures, while Egyptian has commenced to advance again, to-day's quotation being 10½d. The New York market, according to small transactions just reported, is very strong still, and everyone wonders for what quarter of the globe the 1,000 bales Pepperell Drills at 10s. 4½d. are intended, as supplies can be obtained here fully half a tael a piece under that price. It is said, in fact, that a local firm has bought 300 bales for a weak holder at the equivalent of Fls. 4.10, for shipment to Bombay. The Yarn market has not shown so much activity this week, holders being less inclined to sell at the low prices current. This has had the result of causing a slight revival in rates and a better feeling generally, especially with Indian Spinings. The rise in the Yangtze is stopping the buying for Szechuen as shipment will be suspended shortly for a period until the water falls again. The market for Native Cotton is weak and dull. The Race holidays have caused a pleasant break during the interval, but nevertheless the feeling in the market appears to be decidedly more cheerful. The Natives are certainly not so despondent, in fact they are looking forward to a revival in trade before very long now. There is not much evidence of it in the enquiry from first hands as yet, though some few have been able to dispose of small lines of goods; the business however, continues to be at the Auctions—in fact, judging by the prices rather more than is required to meet present wants can be bought there. Grey Shirtings.—A few small parcels have been placed by first hands, after a long interval, qualities in the neighbourhood of Fls. 2.65 to Fls. 2.67½ being what is wanted, and it is those that show the best results at Auction. Medium weights are not doing very well, but the heavier are firm and wanted. A fairly steady business is being done from second hands and clearances are looking up. White Shirtings.—Judging by the clearances recently the demand for these makes is improving up the River, but from the weaker prices realised at Auction it may be surmised that the bulk of the demand is being supplied from old stocks. With few exceptions prices are lower from two to as much as nine Candareens. White Irishes went at firmer prices, but bleached T-Cloths were slightly weaker. T-Cloths and Jeans.—The commoner Mexicans appear to have met with a fair demand at Auction, but everything else had a drooping tendency. Drills and Sheetings.—The former have only been represented by a small purchase from second hands for shipment to Bombay, at the same price and on the same terms as mentioned last week. It is also said that a local House has been quietly buying small stocks of Williston and Lorag A Sheetings from weak holders, all of which should go to strengthen the market, although it is but a drop in the bucket. Fancy Goods.—There is next to nothing doing from first hands privately, and fresh indent business is out of the question, the delivery being too far distant even if the prices were feasible. The Turkey Reds at Auction have gone very badly again and sellers find them moving very slowly. The Fast Black Cotton Italians sold irregularly, but the tendency was lower. Woollens.—There is no combined stability in this market and prices are all in and out. Camlets, irregular, but drooping, Long Ells about steady,

Lastings and Spanish Stripes both dull and drooping. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—There is a better feeling in the market, and although the business reported is considerably less in extent prices show a recovery of fully a tael per bale on the sales made last week in No. 10s., while the other counts are steady to firm. Fully half of the business reported is in this former count and buyers for both the Northern and River Markets have again participated in the operations. Sales of the other counts show fairly steady prices and have been chiefly for the Yangtze Ports, Tientsin taking a few of the No. 20s.

The following is the weekly Piece Goods Report of Messrs. Ilbert & Co., dated Shanghai May, 10th:—Business during the interval has remained quiet with prices on the whole steady to firm for the few transactions from first hands which have taken place. The day after to-morrow (Saturday, May 11th) is a date of some importance amongst the Chinese mercantile classes, being the date upon which the usual three months native bank credits, that have been issued at Chinese New Year, expire and are renewed, extended or restricted according to the standing of their clients. These credit facilities were issued upon lines of extreme caution at Chinese New Year, as the congested state of the market did not lend any degree of confidence to the banks concerned, and they had no wish to incur a repetition of their last year's experiences which were upon the whole very unsatisfactory, and entailed upon them heavy loss in connexion with all northern trade. So far as can be seen at present, the position tends towards a certain amount of return of confidence, and it is probable that credits are not likely to be further curtailed. There has been a slight movement in American Sheetings for Tientsin during the past day or two, but the resales recorded have been mostly at the lower level than last ones, notably that of Whitney 2.85 yard "Dog-head" brand, which at the sale price recorded returns a c.f.i. value of under 10/3d. per piece. The latter sale is, however, stated to be a forced one, on account of a Chinese merchant in difficulties for some time past, but whose indebtedness has fortunately long been discounted in native trading circles. Home markets are strong in sympathy with the considerable advance which has taken place in cotton during the past few days, American Middling being quoted to-day at 6.72d., having touched 6.75d.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th May.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN.—More business has been done during the interval than the previous fortnight, but prices further declined about \$1 all round. Quotations are:—No. 10s at \$68 to \$90; No. 16s at \$93 to \$123; and No. 20s at \$94 to \$138. Arrivals 14,000 bales; Sales 4,000 bales; Shipments 10,000 bales; Bargains 48,000 bales. Unsold stock 6,000 bales.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s	—	to	—
English—Nos. 16 to 24	—	to	—
" 22 to 24	—	to	—
" 28 to 32	—	to	—
" 38 to 42	—	to	—

COTTON PIECE GOODS—No change; Market quiet.

Grey Shirtings—7 lbs.	\$2.52½ to \$2.62½
8.4 lbs.	3.12½ to 3.82½
9 to 10 lbs.	4.12½ to 4.92½
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.82½ to 3.02½
58 to 60 "	3.12½ to 3.32½
64 to 66 "	3.37½ to 5.42½
Fine	5.62½ to 7.72½
Book-folds	5.12½ to 7.87½
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.72½ to 1.62½
T-Cloths—6 lbs. 32 in. (Ord'y)	2.12½ to 2.32½
7 lbs. 32 "	2.87½ to 3.87½
6 lbs. 32 " (Mexs.)	2.32½ to 2.47½
7 lbs. 32 "	2.52½ to 3.17½
8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in.	3.12½ to 3.82½

Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 } 4.62½ to 7.37½

FANCY COTTON—No change; Market quiet.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	\$1.75 to \$3.90
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Brocades—Dyed	\$0.11 to \$0.13
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.13
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.43
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.24

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk \$0.50 to \$1.10
WOOLLENS—No change; Market quiet.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	\$0.70 to \$2.00
German	0.55 to 0.75
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs...	per piece.	\$6.35 to \$9.00
Assorted.....	6.50 to 9.15	
Camlets—Assorted.....	9.00 to 30.00	
Lastings—30 yds. 81 inches } Assorted.....	12.50 to 19.00	
Orleans—Plain.....	11.00	
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	per lb.	\$0.65 to \$1.50
METALS—	per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod	\$4.40	
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)...	4.40	
Swedish Bar	4.50	
Small Round Rod	5.00	
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.00	
Wire, 16/25 oz.	10.00	
Wire Rope, Old.....	3.00	
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	11.80	
Australian	11.80	
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz.	46.00	
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	46.00	
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	46.00	

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 15th May, 1907.

Apricot	\$ 10 to 15
Borax	\$ 16, 18
Cassia	\$ 18, 20
Cloves	\$ 25, 40
Camphor	\$160, 140
Cow Bexoar	\$110, 140
Fennel Seed	\$ 3, 9
Galangal	\$ 3, 5 1/2
Grapes	\$ 10, 12
Kismis	\$ 9, 11
Glue	\$ 24, 28
Oilbanum	\$ 4, 16
Oil Sandalwood	\$245, 350
„ Rosa	\$ 50, 150
„ Cassia	\$270, 200
Raisins	\$ 7, 8
Senna Leaves	\$ 3, 7
Sandalwood	\$ 24, 29
Saltpetre	\$ 10, 10 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th May, 1907.—There is no improvement to report in the general condition of our market during the past week, and rates, with few exceptions, continue to rule weak. Business is still very restricted, and no sales of importance have transpired.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have declined locally to \$908 with sellers, after unimportant sales at \$910, and London has receded to £101. Nationals are unchanged at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—We have heard of no business in this section. Quotations are unchanged, but Unions and North Chinas are obtainable at current rates.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are unaltered at \$330 sellers. Chinas, after sales at \$32 1/2 and \$80, close in some request at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao close steady with sales and some sellers at \$30, but at \$29 1/2 there are buyers, and a fair number of shares could probably be placed. Indos are unchanged, but with some sellers at \$71. Douglasses have been booked at \$38 1/2 and more shares are wanted. Shell Transports have advanced to 47/- with sales, and close with probable sellers at 48/-. China and Manilas and Star Ferries are procurable at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$120, at which rate the market closes steady with some probable sellers at the rate. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Raubs continue to weaken, and shares are now procurable at \$6 1/2.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are reported to have been sold down to \$108, but at the close no shares appear to be available under \$110. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$84 sellers, and Shanghai Docks to Tls. 78, the latter closing with sales and probable further local buyers. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$11 1/2, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves at Tls. 219.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$107 1/2 and \$107 and close with further sellers at the former quotation. West Points have been placed at \$48, and Humphreys' Estates at \$10.90, the former closing in further request. Hongkong Hotels are still on offer at \$118.

COTTON MILLS.—There is no business to report, and quotations are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have

been fixed at \$9, Electrics at \$15.10, Steam Laundries at \$7, China Light and Powers at \$7, and Union Water Boats at \$12, \$12 1/2 and \$12 1/2, the last named closing in further request. Watsons have sold and are procurable at \$12. Green Island Cements, after sales at \$18 1/2, have receded to \$18 1/2 with sellers, and South China Morning Posts are also easier with sellers at \$23.

Quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$908, sellers London, £101
National B. of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$9 1/2, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$7, sales
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 62
Hongkong	\$10	\$11 1/2, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 51
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 370
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15 1/2
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$84, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$110, sellers
New Amoy Dock...	\$6 1/2	\$11 1/2, buyers
Shanghai Dock and	Tls. 100	Tls. 78, sales & buy.
Eng. Co., Ltd		
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 219, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$18, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$18 1/2, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$15
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$20, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$280, sellers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$80, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$97
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China.....	£5	Tls. 77 1/2, sellers
Union	\$100	\$770, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$158, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$107 1/2, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10.90, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37 1/2, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 105
West Point Building	Tls. 50	Tls. 103
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£cs. 250	\$450, buyers
Raubs.....	18/10	\$6 1/2, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$12, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$120, sales & sel.
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$15 1/2
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38 1/2, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$29 1/2, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	£10	\$71, sales
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	48/-
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$19 1/2, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, sellers
Steam Laundry Co. ...	\$5	\$7, sales
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins.....	\$10	\$4 1/2, sales & buy.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales & sel.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10 1/2, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12 1/2, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending May 9th, 1907, states:—Since our last the Race holidays of the 6th, 7th and 8th have intervened and hardly any business has been done in consequence: we have therefore no changes of any importance to report. Banks.—The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. We hear of a demand at \$915; shares have not changed hands, however. Hongkong quoted \$915 sales on the 4th May. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/10 1/2. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Yangtze shares are still in demand at \$155. Shipping.—Indos. A small quantity was dealt in on the 3rd instant at Tls. 53.50 for the old shares for June, and on the 4th a sale is reported of Preference shares at Tls. 30.50 for June. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. A few shares are for sale at Tls. 50, and Preference shares at the same price are wanted. Docks and Wharves.—The only transaction reported is a sale on the 2nd at Tls. 84 for cash. Shares are on the market, however, which closes weak at Tls. 82.50 sellers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Shares. The market remains at Tls. 215 for cash. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 14.50. Lands.—Shares have changed hands at Tls. 105 for the old and Tls. 103 for the new shares. Industrial.—A sale of Ewos is reported at Tls. 63.50 for cash. International Cottons are wanted at Tls. 52 for June. Laou Kung Mows remain at Tls. 77.50 for June. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 282.50 for cash and Tls. 287.50 for June. A few sales of Sumatras have been made at Tls. 117.50 for May. Miscellaneous.—The only transaction under this heading is a sale of Central Hotel Shares at \$15.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, May 17th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight.....	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	2/2 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	270
Credits 4 months' sight	274 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	220
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	52 1/2
Credits 60 days' sight	53 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer ..	160
Bank, on demand	160 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	160
Bank on demand	160 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	105
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	105
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	9 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	128 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON BANG OK.—On demand	68 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.25
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$18.50
BAR SILVER, per oz	30 1/2

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles, or Havre; 40/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—per carload, Tea G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb. gross; less than carload, Tea G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai, 9th May, 1907, has the following:—Our Homeward Freight Market remains without change since last writing. Coastwise:—There is almost nothing doing here. Outside tonnage is very scarce, however, so that what business has been put through is at fairly firm rates.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

- May—
- ARRIVALS.
- 12, Phumpenh, Chinese str., from Saigon.
 - 12, Shakano Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
 - 13, Fiume, German str., from Labuan.
 - 13, Kisagata Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
 - 13, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Manila.
 - 13, Looksun, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 13, Oceanian, French str., from Marseilles.
 - 13, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 - 13, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.
 - 13, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 - 13, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 13, Yuenang, British str., from Manila.
 - 14, Amara, British str., from Saigon.
 - 14, C. Behring, British str., from Singapore.
 - 14, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Dalny.
 - 14, Kanju Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
 - 14, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 - 14, Sexta, German str., from Saigon.
 - 14, Tringies, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 - 15, Achilles, British str., from Liverpool.
 - 15, Bombay Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 - 15, Briggavia, German str., from Amoy.
 - 15, Drufar, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
 - 15, Dundas, British str., from Japan.
 - 15, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 - 15, Josbin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 - 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 - 15, Oceana, British str., from Bombay.
 - 16, Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 16, Erroll, British str., from Yokohama.
 - 16, Hollas, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 16, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 - 16, Kumsang, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 - 16, Providence, Nor. str., from Haiphong.
 - 16, Taiwan, British str., from Saigon.

May— DEPARTURES.

- 13, Concomdt, American cruiser, for Amoy.
- 13, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Omeru Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 13, Taiyuen, British str., for Manila.
- 13, Yabiko Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 14, Aeon, British str., for Newcastle.
- 14, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, G. Apar, British str., for Singapore.
- 14, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Hanchow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 14, Nissin Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 14, Nord, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 14, Phranang, German str., for Swatow.
- 14, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 14, Protector, Danish str., for Amoy.
- 14, Salazie, French str., for Singapore.
- 14, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 14, Szechuen, British str., for Saigon.
- 14, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 14, Toonan, Chinese str., for Amoy.
- 14, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
- 15, Canton, British str., for Bangkok.
- 15, Fu'ushu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 15, Hailan, French str., for Haikow.
- 15, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 15, Kenkon Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 15, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
- 15, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 15, Kwangtak, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Nichibei Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 15, Singan, British str., for Saigon.
- 15, Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 15, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 16, Briggavia, German str., for Singapore.
- 16, Cheongshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 16, Dundas, British str., for Japan.
- 16, Fiume, German str., for Tamsui.
- 16, G. Chanzy, French cruiser, for Shanghai.
- 16, Norrona, Korean str., for Saigon.
- 16, Tatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Tientsin.
- 16, Tingsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 16, Oceana, British str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Palambang, Dutch str., for Borneo.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss H. Hemingway, Mr. and Mrs. Win James, Mrs. and Miss and Master F. Gomes, Mrs. J. Chunynt, Capt. Cuming, Rev. L. de Cook, Major Elliot, Messrs. C. W. Milles, H. Uttley, Charlie Hing, E. Saileds, W. P. Winstone, and F. Winstone.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Alwater, Miss Wells, Messrs. Hunter, and E. Point.

Per *Yuenang*, from Manila, Messrs. F. Aguado, J. Mcaulay, F. J. Webster, E. McNelly, and W. F. Taylor.

Per *Tamba Maru*, from Shanghai &c., Mr. and Mrs. ilman, Miss Gaylord, Miss Dwight, Miss M. Yawazumi, Miss I. Thompson, Messrs. N. Kimura, K. Tokunaga, T. Murata, S. Kunifani, Smith, M. Matheson, A. E. Gutierrez, and J. N. Anderson.

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Per *Kumsang*, from Calcutta &c., Dr. Paul, and Mr. Marshal.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from London, for Hongkong, Miss Ridgeway, Messrs. T. J. Browne, C. Chambers, add A. R. Mann; for Kobe, Dr. and Mrs. Stook and two children, Miss Cocks, Messrs. Burdon, T. Chiba, S. Takehara, I. Tonoi, and C. N. Chway; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Tahara, Mr. and Mrs. Nimmerfall and two children, Major T. Takenouchi, Messrs. K. Hardman, T. Hayami, J. Katauo, and K. Arai.

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DEPARTED.

Per *Oceanien*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. Huber, E. V. Salamans, J. Quin, H. E. D. Hancock, H. Wei and boy, James G. Brown, J. D. Smadley, Wm. B. Boyce, A. R. de Roza, and K. Gunn; for Yokohama, Messrs. Ch. Brgan, J. F. Galé, and Guillo.

Per *Salazie*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mrs. Harris and child, Lieut. Paseton, Lieut. Hall, Howell, Messrs. Brown, Mersinat, Servonnat, and D. Rud; for Singapore, Mrs. Santuga, Messrs. Wm. Fannie, A. Blow, Anslander, Newhouse, and F. A. Anderson; for Marseilles, Bishop Mareel, Rev. Lagin, Messrs. Melligan, and Darracq.

Per *Tamba Maru*, from Hongkong, for Europe &c., Mr. and Mrs. McGregor and children, Mr. and Mrs. Map, Rev. and Mrs. Wells and children, Ambassador and Madame Uchida, Mrs. F. Grisolia and child Mrs. Ighii, Dr. S. Niiyama, Dr. T. Nugakata, Dr. T. Kuwabara, Capt. M. Yada, Rev. Fargubar, Lieut. Colonel F. V. Whittal, Lieut. Col. T. Ohashi, Messrs. B. Mori, H. Shibana, E. P. Pallister, Madon, J. P. Warren, Geo. Christie, McCracken, Blanco, Jusay, Sawada, S. Haine, Sakai, Usui, Toda, Y. Ohasli, Y. Takeda, M. Sato, Y. Ohno, K. Masuda, C. R. Morse, P. Harris, and Hangkaw.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Hongkong, for Japan &c., Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Hemingway, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Clark, M. and Mrs. A. C. Grav, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Lelièvre, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Urgahart, Mr. and Mrs. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Boadas, Mr. and Mrs. Fleury, Capt. and Mrs. A. Fitzpatrick, Master and Miss Clark, Mrs. D. F. Page and baby, Mrs. Cohen and children, Mrs. E. C. Crick, Mrs. Kobayashi, Mrs. Kitchie, Mrs. K. Onchi, Miss H. Briscoe, Miss Flower, Miss Pearl Clark, Miss Hopper, Miss MacLaren, Miss Hayashida, Miss T. Sakai, Miss Fujikawa, Major Elliot, Messrs. Uttley, I. Archer, John Cook, C. P. Clark, T. Lelièvre, Lindlev, Jas Millar, W. F. Millar, F. W. Platten, E. K. Rogers, K. Tojo, H. T. Willa, W. H. Dick, Inonye, J. Jallon, J. Oka, H. Yamamura, J. C. Lowe, G. Cheuring, and Fournier.

Printed and published by BERTHAM AUGUSTUS HAIN, for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Vieux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong, London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.